

Tyler Junior College News

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Black history month still needed

by Stacie Drinning
co-editor

February is the month in which this nation celebrates the lives and history of black Americans.

Black history month provides us with an opportunity to understand

what so many black Americans have done for this great nation. The holiday's purpose is to reveal in their accomplishments and recognize that blacks are "a permanent part of the US fabric," Student Services Director Dr. Otis Webster

said.

The dividing of the populus, making "separate but equal" facilities available and treating an entire race of people as second class citizens were common ways of dealing with cultural differences at that point in history. Segregation was an expected practice by the majority in most parts of the United States until the 1960's and 1970's.

This was a time when Dr. Webster, like so many other blacks Americans, lived with "a constant element of fear."

It took the ruling in Brown vs. the Board of Education to make it possible for a black child to receive an equal education. The only way to ac-

"Segregation still exists"

complish such a task was to allow the races to attend the same schools. This was the beginning of desegregation.

Today, thirty some years later, desegregation has been successful to an extent. There

are still instances of segregation. For example, segregation still exists and shows up every Sunday morning when the races worship under the same denomination but in segregated churches Webster said.

As a whole thing are better today than thirty years ago. This fact is proven because at this very moment blacks and whites are sitting side by side in every city in this nation being equal and not separate.

Is the fairly recent change in peoples attitudes toward other races

have anything to do with the current generation being taught that hate is bad? Yes, the tolerance started with the previous generation but has been magnified by this one Webster said. A group had to finally learn tolerance and it just happened to be the 90's children.

Since things are better should we still have a month to celebrate the struggles of the black American? If we didn't the fight to get where we are today would be forgotten.

Communities formed at campus picnic tables

by Bennie Adkins
staff writer

TJC's campus is fortunate to have areas where students can hang out with each other and feel comfortable. Students are able to communicate with others without feeling like they don't belong. There are many different groups distributed throughout the campus in which students can converse.

While attending high school these same groups were labeled jocks, preps, nerds and loners. Students today seem to

have strayed away from labeling others. Many of TJC students have jobs, children, and other responsibilities, and feel that their social time between classes is what they need to get through the day. Some students talk on their mobile phones or study and others forget about their school life for just a few minutes and hang out with their friends.

Some students believe that the reason students group is because they share classes and others believe that the different groups are there simply because they like each others company.

"I notice that all of the basketball girls hang out together," sophomore Quiana Harris said.

The students at the picnic table behind Jenkins Hall said that they like their table just the way it is.

"The two main discussions that we have at this table are about sex and drugs," Melyssa Deel, a kinesiology major from Alba said. "I like this table because the people are not stuck up and they know how to have a good time. At our table people don't have to dress a certain way because that is some-

thing that is not an issue."

Some students prefer sitting in the library studying or just taking a break from chaos.

Whitney Langford, an Elementary Education major

"We sit at this table because we got kicked off of the other one"

from Tyler said, "I spend my time between classes here because it is quiet and I can go ahead and get most of my studying done instead of at night."

Right outside the library doors, students who enjoy themselves have a lot in common.

"We call it the Mexican table" freshman Brenda Delgado said.

This table is more relaxed than the Jenkins table but they do like to joke around and be comical. They exchange thoughts and laughter while making sarcastic comments to each other.

Daisy

Aparicio, a biology major from Dallas said, "We decide if we are going to eat or go to class."

"But most of the time, we eat!" Delgado said.

"We sit at this table because we got kicked off of the other one," Aparicio said.

"We've kind of gotten used to sittin here,

so we all wrote our names on it. The main reason that I like this table is because these are great people to hang out with."

Between classes lots of students gather in front of Rogers Student Center. They always seem to be in a good mood as they sit on walls or stand on the

paved spaces enjoying themselves. This group has many different discussions.

"We just come here to chill and look at the women," Derick Taylor said.

Students inside Rogers appear to have more than one thing going on at one time. In the east lobby students lounge and study. In the west lobby they play pool, table tennis and arcade games. In the midst of all this, some still study.

April Beasley, sophomore, physical therapy major from Tyler said, "I come to the Rogers Student Center to study with my friends. Sometimes when we study, we can be a little loud, but we never disturb other people. We have flash card drills or whatever it takes in order for us to get an A."



Pictured above are regulars at the picnic tables.

photo by Bennie Adkins

Inside

Graduation
...page 3

Balloon Man
...page 5

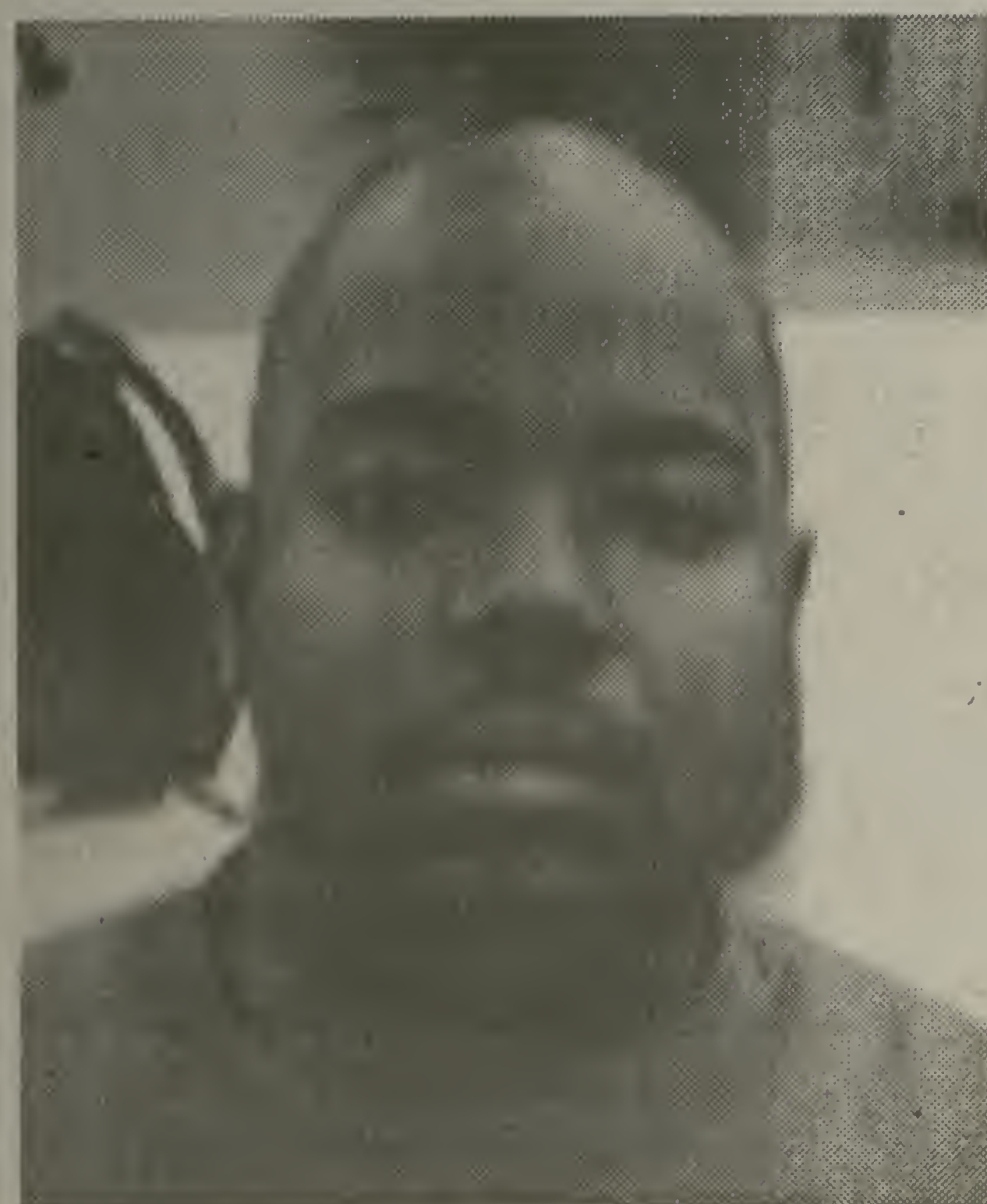
News Briefs
...page 7

Art Exhibit
...page 8

CAMPUS

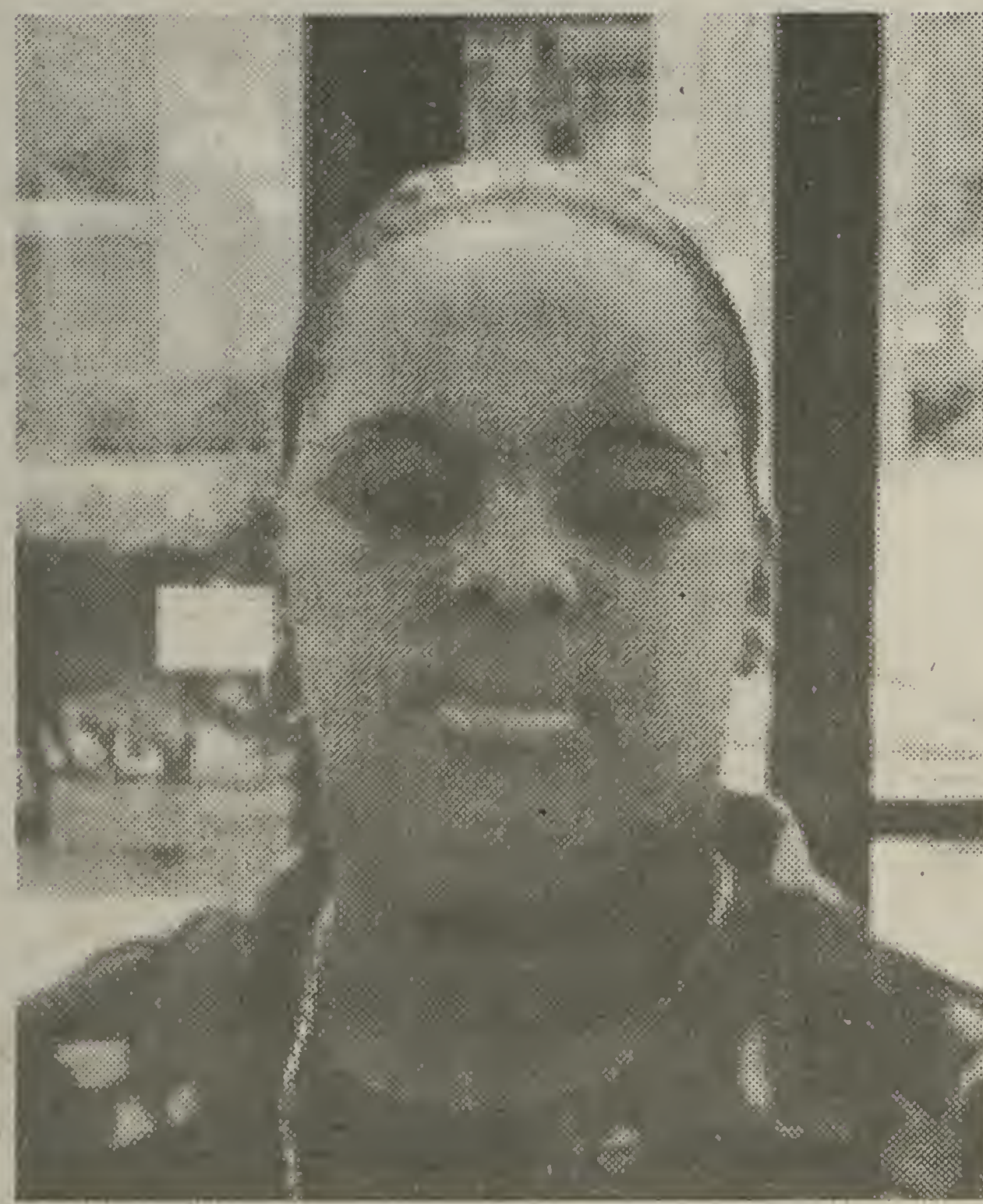
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Why is black history important?



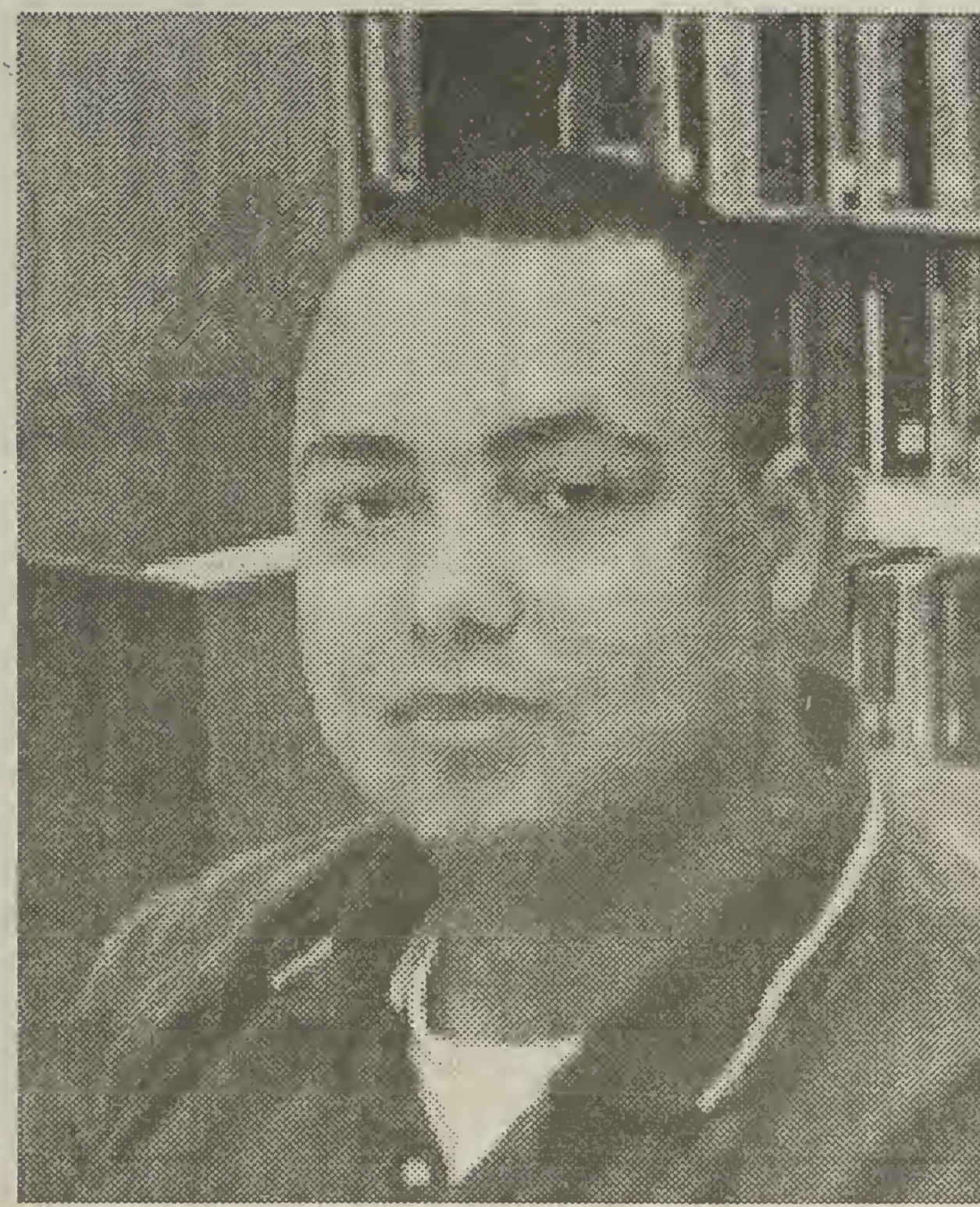
-Gus Wright

"Lets me know where we been, and is the reason we have so many opportunities today."



-Ashley Taylor

"It's a look back into the past in comparison to today."



-Robert Hunt

"Motivates me to seek a better understanding of life and to pursue better goals for success."



-Kim Slaughter

"Helps us to realize color does not separate us, God breaks the walls of separation."

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We still need it

Black History Month

teaching us to remember

by Stacie Drinning
co-editor

Normally holidays are a single day or at the most a weekend. But the history and celebration of black Americans have been deemed important and significant enough to merit an entire month of reflection and remembrance.

Black History Month, February, was made a national holiday to make people aware of a history that may not otherwise be taught during the year, Student Services Director Dr. Otis Webster said.

What exactly is this holiday intended to teach or show us? Have we as a nation progressed so far from prejudice that we need a month to

remember how much we have accomplished?

"No...there is still a lot of hatred, still a lot of improvement...we need to come together more," Sophomore Sherleen Collins said.

"There will always be a few who hate simply to hate."

Is this month used as an opportunity for the older generations that had to live through segregation and "race riots" to sit back and revel in the fact that young black and white kids play together everyday? Are we simply giving the

older black Americans a chance to take a breath and not "live in a constant state of fear" anymore?

"There will always be a few who hate simply to hate," Freshman Ricky Grice said.

That may be true, but 40 years ago that "few" was the vast majority of both black and white Americans. We hated one another because it was acceptable to do so.

Not everyone can or wants to judge people on their intellect rather than their color, but at least today that is an option.

Black History Month is a time for a nation. It is not a month simply to show black Americans how far they have come. It is also a month for white Americans to show how much they have grown. And it is a month for those Americans who have never experienced hate to learn bad things use to be and how they could be again without vigilance. Also, how lucky they are to not have to battle prejudice everyday.

Whatever problems this nation may face, it is comforting to know that we will face them as just that... a nation, not a color.

Letters from readers

The TJC News seeks letters from members of the college community on issues that concern them and ideas for improvements. Students, faculty and staff can submit letters by mail to Tyler Junior College News, P.O. Box 9020, Tyler, Texas 75711 or by delivering them to the News office in 204 Potter Hall.

Letters must be signed and contain the writer's address and phone number.

Editors reserve the right to select and edit letters in accordance with college policy, legal requirements and length.

Students required to check graduation status

by Quiana Harris
staff writer

Anyone who has completed all their degree plan requirements is eligible to graduate May 11, Graduation Specialist Denny Yarborough said.

To see if they are eligible, students must first talk to their academic adviser, Yarborough

said. The adviser will check their transcripts to see that all degree requirements are complete.

If eligible, students must fill out an application, but no longer pay a fee, by March 1. Students cannot apply on-line to graduate.

Anyone who thinks he or

she can graduate should go to their adviser's office. Only an adviser can approve any substitutions for credits, she said.

Students who do not have enough credit hours cannot take a Maymester course to graduate because those courses end after the gradua-

tion deadline.

TJC no longer charges for graduation. Caps and gowns will be issued at rehearsal. Students will receive five free invitations. If they wish to purchase more, additional invitations cost 25 cents each.

Diplomas will be mailed out in the summer,

Yarborough said.

Students are encouraged, but not required to participate in the commencement ceremony at 5 p.m. May 11 in Wagstaff Gym, she said.

Planetarium staff plan programs, star parties

by Tera Ives
co-editor

Hudnall Planetarium visitors can tour the Solar System and the Milky Way Galaxy, see images of the Hubble Space Telescope and attend free Saturday night Star Parties.

"Images of the Infinite: The Hubble Space Telescope" soars at 2 p.m. Sundays and 1 p.m. Tuesdays through May 12 in the Planetarium.

"The show highlights the history and top findings of the telescope and takes you on a unforgettable trip using spectacular Hubble images," Planetarium Director Bill Walker said.

Admission costs \$1.50 for adults and \$1 for children 12 and younger and senior citizens 60 or older.

Saturday Night Star Parties are also planned. 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. March 23 and 8:30 to 10 p.m. April 20. The Hudnall Staff and Astronomical Society of East Texas will come to look at planets of the solar system including Saturn and Jupiter.

"We will also explore our own moon, the Andromeda Galaxy and Orion Nebula," Walker said.

Admission to Saturday night Star Parties is free. All activities depend on suitable weather permitting.

The Planetarium will be closed March 10-18 for Spring Break and March 31 for Good Friday.

Courses can speed gradution

by Tera Ives
co-editor

Spring Mini-Term II registration begins 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. March 7 and 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. March 8 in the registrar's office. Late registration will be 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. March 18 and 19 in the registrar's office.

Eight-weeks may seem like a short period of time to gain adequate instruction but Mathematics Managing Direc-

tor Dr. Katie Preast, said students can be very successful if they are motivated and self-directed.

An eight-week course may help students just entering TJC, those trying to complete degree requirements quickly or those trying to graduate.

"The classes are being offered as a service to students," Preast said. "The response from students is very positive be-

cause they are able to get the material done quickly."

Students are allowed to take more than one eight-week course at a time but "you need to be very disciplined," Preast said.

Classes start March 18 and end May 29. Payment for classes is due at time of registration.

Math problems trouble many

by Jennifer Shirley
staff writer

Many students are having a rough time passing TASP. Most of the problem lies in math, Mathematics Managing Director Dr. Katie Preast said.

TJC has 2,400 students in developmental math courses and only 1,700 in college credit math courses.

Many students don't know the rules for passing the math TASP, or that they are different from those for passing the other sections.

First, students should notice their scores have a pass-

ing level and a college math level. To pass math, you must make a minimum score of 230, Preast said, but to meet state requirements, you must make a minimum score of 270 to take college level math.

TJC will accept scores of 250 for admission to college level courses, although most universities require a minimum score of 270.

Taking non-credit courses can strain students' budgets, but Preast suggests ways to prevent failing the math TASP.

The problem often occurs when students take

math before their senior year and forget the rules. The best solution is to take math first in college. Students have a better chance taking and passing TASP if they take it during or immediately after the highest developmental course when their mind is refreshed about math.

Developmental courses cost the same as credit courses. Starting in the fall semester, to urge students to take and pass the TASP, they will be charged the \$29 TASP testing fee along with their course payment, Preast said.

Students report TASP troubles

by Jennifer Shirley
staff writer

To find out just what students think about the TASP, and how well they did, 15 TJC students were surveyed.

Most students, 10 of 15 think math is the most difficult section. Reading is the next hardest section, two students said. Only one student found writing most difficult, one student thought all sections were difficult and one said it was all too easy.

Most students said they thought they did well on a section but actually didn't. Which section did they think they did

well on? The results show that six students thought they did well in math, three in reading, one in writing and one in all sections. Four students thought they didn't do well in any section.

Most students, eight of 15, passed at least two sections, four passed all sections, two passed only one section and one of those questioned, didn't pass any section of TASP.

Eight students failed the math, two failed writing and four failed reading.

The most frequent complaint is that the test is too hard. Many people commented

that the math section was exceptionally hard.

What is the solution? One student who has taken several math developmental courses said, "I just think they should put you in the college level course if you want, but still offer developmental courses to those who want to take those classes."

The student thought that would save time and money.

"If they would teach kids in Texas schools to pass higher level tests such as the TASP or the SAT instead of TAAS, then they could learn more and harder material," she said.

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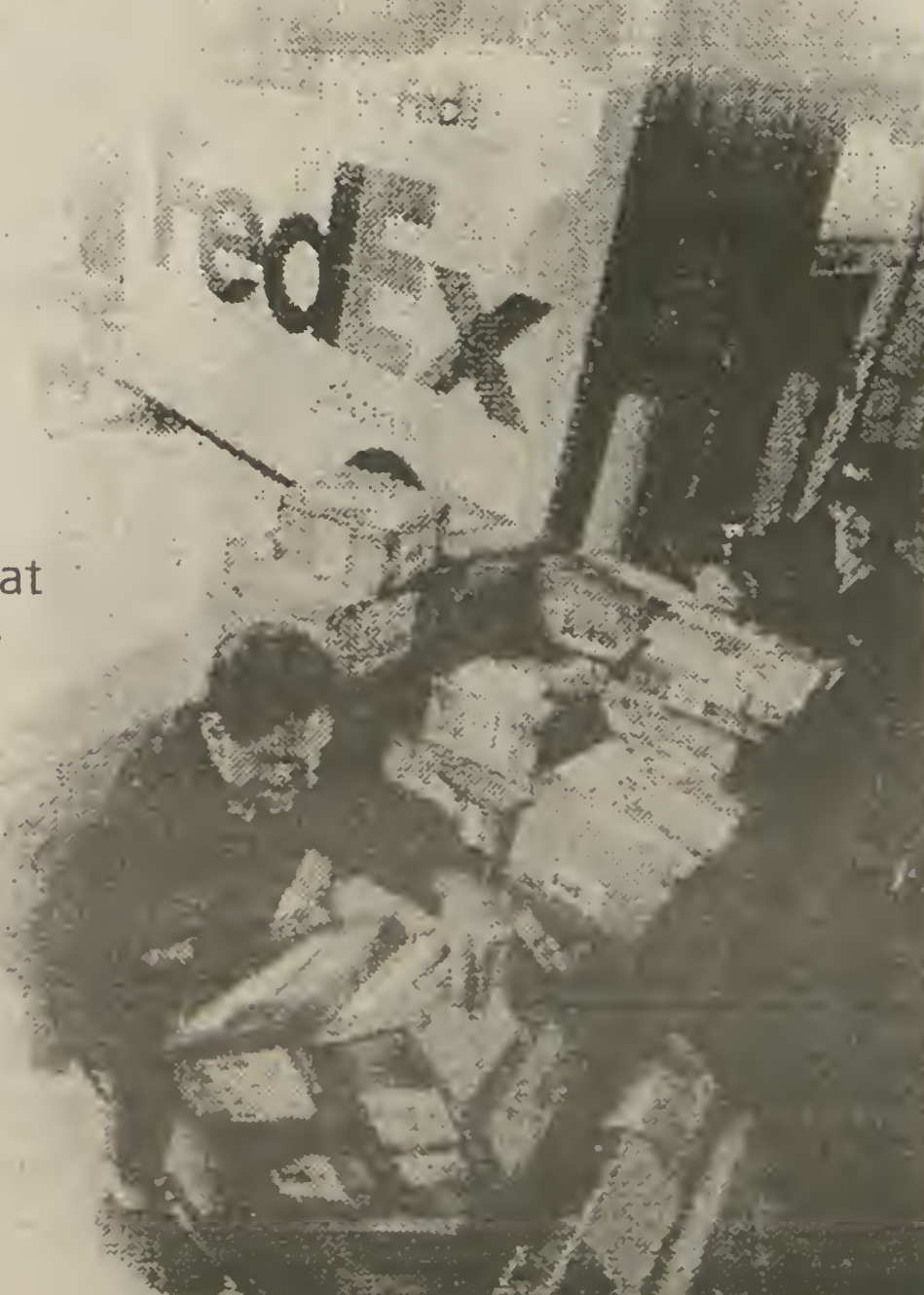
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Open container laws don't change minds

by Tera Ives
co-editor

Alcohol-related crimes are the most frequently committed crimes in the United States, according to www.txdot.com. The Open Container Law went into effect in Texas at the start of 2002. But have the new laws changed students' minds about drinking and driving?

Open container laws prohibit the possession of any alcoholic beverage container and the consumption of any alcoholic beverages in the passen-

ger area of a vehicle.

"There have always been laws about drinking and driving, but people still do it," computer science major, Scott Jones, 23, said.

Drivers or passengers can be fined up to \$500 for having an open container in the vehicle.

"I think you should go straight to jail," Emily Bonds, 20, associate degree nursing major, said. "Maybe as the con-

sequences get worse, people may take them more seriously."

'There have always been laws about drinking and driving, people still do it.'

Alcohol involvement remains the leading factor in motor vehicle deaths. Thousands of Texans are injured or

killed by drunk drivers every year. Every 33 minutes someone dies in an alcohol-related automobile accident.

The first offense for driving while intoxicated can lead to a \$2,000 dollar fine, 72 hours to 180 days in jail and a license suspension of 190 days to one year, according to txdot.com.

The second DWI of-

fense can lead to a \$4,000 fine, 30 days to one year in jail and driver's license suspension of 180 days to two years.

"People know they're not supposed to do it. They don't have an excuse," Bonds said.

As few as two to three beers in one hour can make some people legally intoxicated. Impairment begins with the first drink.

"You shouldn't be drinking in the car. It's the beginning of a problem," Bonds said.

Postmaster unveils Langston Hughes stamp at Texas College

by Danielle West
staff writer

Friday the Langston Hughes postage stamp was unveiled at Texas College. The stamp honors American author and poet James Langston Hughes who was born Feb. 1, 1902.

Hughes is the 25th in the Black Heritage postage stamp series. Other outstanding Americans so honored have included Martin Luther King, Madam C.J. Walker, Malcolm X, Patricia Roberts Harris and Charles Drew.

Tyler Postmaster Fred Arrambidez wanted to bring the unveiling to historic Texas College which opened in Tyler in 1894.

Texas College President Dr. Billy C. Hawkins said the school is proud to be asked to host such an important historic event.

Freshman Reginald Robinson recited Hughes' poem "Let America be

America Again" and the Jazz Ensemble performed for an audience that filled the auditorium in the Willie Lee Glass Community Development Services Center on the campus.

During his high school years Hughes began to reveal his love for poetry. In November, 1924, he moved to Harlem, New York, where his first book of poetry "*The Weary Blues*" was published by Alfred A. Knopf in 1926.

Three years after Hughes finished college at Lincoln University education in Pennsylvania, he began work on his first novel.

In 1930 Hughes' novel "Not Without Laughter" won the Harmon gold medal for literature and Hughes decided to pursue a career in writing.

He used his writings to tell the stories of his people without personalizing them, so that the reader could step in and draw his own conclu-

sions. The memories of the late Langston Hughes still lives on today. His poetry is still recited by many worldwide.

To be considered for a historical stamp in the series which began in 1978, Arrambidez said,

"The person has to have been deceased for at least 10 years or have been a U.S. president," Arrambidez said.

Some 40,000 suggestions are submitted each year. The 12-member Stamp Advisory Committee sends their recommendation to the Postmaster General who make the final decision, Arrambidez explained.

Arrambidez hopes to make the stamp unveiling an annual tradition at Texas College.

Stamps and first day cancellations were available for purchase during a reception after the program.



Photo by Bennie Adkins
STAMP CELEBRATES SUCCESS—Texas College President Dr. Billy Hawkins and Tyler Postmaster Fred Arrambidez unveil the Langston Hughes postage stamp Friday at Texas College. The stamp marks 25 years of the Black Heritage Series.

Groups enroll for travel-study in New York, Turkey

by Erin Crawford
staff writer

Three TJC-sponsored trips offer opportunities to travel and learn. Dr. David Crawford will lead a trip to the city that never sleeps, New York. The group will leave May 20 and return to Tyler on May 25. Those on this trip will earn credit for

Drama 1301 Theater Appreciation.

The group plans to see Broadway shows and tour Central Park, Radio City Music Hall or NBC studios and Rockefeller Center.

Dr. Manoucher Khosrowshahi will lead two trips to Turkey. The first, March 8-17, will be a 10-

day travel and study project. The group will visit the Museum of Anatolian Civilization and the Mausoleum of Ataturk in Ankara, see Cappadocia and many other places, Dr. Khosrowshahi said. Full payment of \$1,775 was due Jan. 15, but space may be available, on a first-come, first-served basis.

Khosrowshahi will lead another trip to Turkey, from May 18 to June 2. A deposit of \$375 is due by March 25 for this 16-day travel and study project. Full payment must be made by April 15 with enrollment after that date on a space available basis.

On this trip the group

will visit Urfa, Abraham's birthplace, Amasya Archaeological Museum and other historic and cultural spots.

For more information about any of these trips, contact Crawford or Khosrowshahi at Tyler Junior College, P.O. Box 9020, Tyler, TX 75711

Balloons, photos delight on Valentine's Day

by Amber Allsbrooks
staff writer

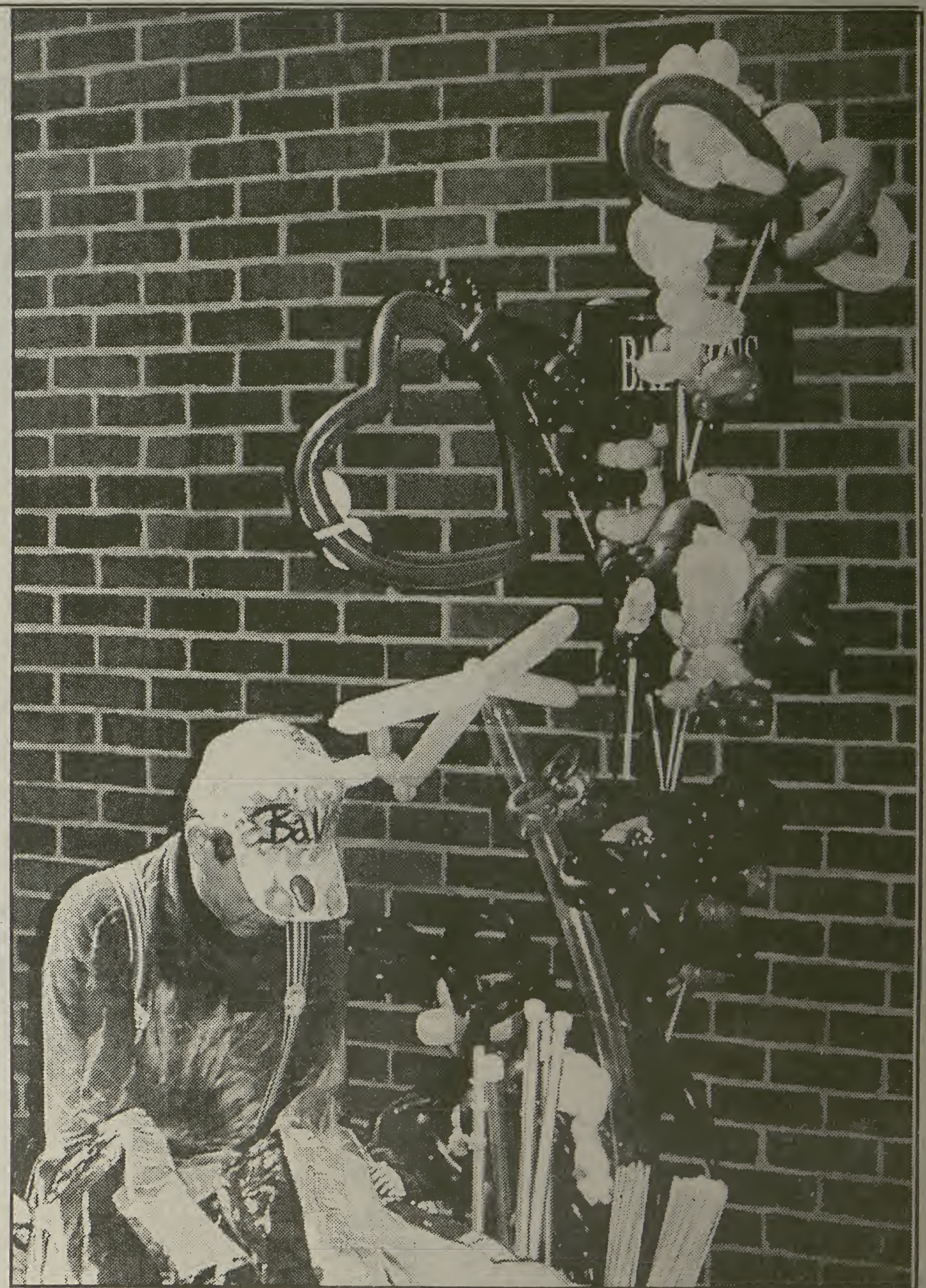
Valentine's Day—couples taking photos, students charmed by colorful balloons characters in red, blue, purple, green, yellow, orange and black filled rooms in the Student Center. Balloon Artist Ronnie Conn made balloons characters of all shapes and sizes in many

"The balloons and photo project was simply to entertain students and faculty"

colors. He created Looney Tunes characters, hearts and bears that hugged each other.

Student Senate President Jill Green said the balloons and photo project was done simply to entertain students and faculty. The balloons cost \$1 to \$5.

Friends and couples could pose for serious or funny photos. Former TJC student Freddy Black took the pictures. The first photo was free, additional ones cost \$3.



Photos this page by Amber Allsbrooks

Couple Loletha Jones and Lloyd Afriyie stop to take a picture on Valentine's Day.



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Students, faculty make spring break plans

by Melissa Raynor
staff writer

Students and faculty have started counting the days and planning early what they will do during spring break. Many plan to relax in front of their T.V. or hang with friends while others plan to travel to special places.

The most popular destination for TJC students is Galveston or South Padre Island. Sophomores Cedric Racliff and Sam Blalack will both go there. Other popular

choices are Disneyworld and the Florida beaches. Sophomores Ted Fontenot and Gerusa Mendes may both agree you're never too old to go on family vacations, especially to a theme park like Disneyworld when parents are paying.

Others have chosen spring break as the perfect time to visit family all over the country.

Staff Technician Kelly Walden will go north with

her family to her home state of Maine to visit family and friends.

Math Instructor Marvin Davis and his family will travel to St. Louis, Mo. to visit relatives.

Sophomore Caprice Davis will go to California to celebrate her grandmother's 50th birthday. She also intends to spend time at Disneyland.

Ryan Quiggins wants a little more winter, so he will ski at Lake Tahoe.

Some will travel beyond the borders of the United States.

History Instructor Dr. Manoucher Khosrowshahi will take students and others to Turkey.

TJC videographer Jed Turman will tape his way through Egypt.

Some want to get away but not travel far. Freshman Dale Burns will visit his brother in Holley. Freshman Joe Riggins hopes to find

fun and entertainment in Dallas and freshman R.J. McGee will be at Lake Whitney, relaxing at his boathouse for the first time since he inherited it from his grandfather.

Spring break won't be a break for Cindy Barnes, who will be a substitute teacher for Alba-Golden Elementary School.

For those in Tyler, the TJC baseball team will play games here.

Smarts, patience can earn money, help others

by Melissa Raynor
staff writer

Smart can pay off in college. Anyone who makes good grades and has patience can make money and help someone at the same time, by be-

coming a peer tutor.

To become a peer tutor:

- contact a teacher in the course you would like to tutor in and have them approve you.

- be enrolled at TJC with a minimum 3.0 grade average.

- must have taken, and passed the course with at least a high B.

- go to the Learning

Loft and complete the peer tutor application.

Peer tutors are paid by the hour. A single session of one-on-one tutoring pays \$6.25 an hour. Specific course lab tutors earn \$7 and athletic tu-

tors earn \$9 an hour.

For more information on becoming a peer tutor go to the Learning Loft, third floor of the Rogers Student Center or call Cindy Lowery at 510-2892 or visit the website at superv.tyler.cc.us/tutor.



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Bands can audition for 'battle'

All students interested in competing with other college bands can audition for the Battle of the Bands. After auditions March 5, all students will perform at 7:30 p.m. March 19.

Those who enter can get audition forms and return in audio/video tracks to the Student Activities Office in Rogers Student Center. Auditions costs \$5 per group of 3-4 members and \$10 for groups of five or more.

Audition entries should be addressed to Mary Ketner, director. A grand prize of \$500 will be awarded.

Dental students offer services

Dental Hygiene services, including dental cleaning, exam, X-rays,

fluoride and sealants in the campus clinic in Pirtle. Clients pay a one time, per-semester charge of \$10. First and second year students perform these services supervised by licensed dental hygienists. Call 510-2342 to make an appointment.

TJC, A&M announce veterinary agreement

Students can now make a seamless transition into the Biomedical Science program at Texas A&M University College of Veterinary Medicine. TJC and A&M have signed an agreement to facilitate admission and academic transfer.

Students must complete the TJC course requirements as full-time students, maintain a 3.60 grade-point average and be eligible for an associate degree.

Workshops to offer financial aid advice

Future and present college students and their parents are invited to attend financial aid workshops beginning March 4. The Student Financial Aid and Scholarships staff will lead the workshops beginning at 2 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. March 4, March 21, April 9 and April 22. For more information call 510-2385.

Apache Lady named Player of the Week

Former Apache Lady Aiysha Smith was named Southeastern Conference Player of the Week recently after recording a double-double, 18 points and 12 rebounds, in LSU's victory over South Carolina.

Smith leads her team in scoring, rebounds, steals and field goal percentage. Smith went to LSU after graduating from TJC in 2001.

'Crazy for You' to open

The 1993 award-winning Broadway play "Crazy for You" opens Wednesday and running through March 2 in Wise Auditorium. To reserve tickets, call 510-2212 or go to the box office where tickets cost \$5 each.

SFA to recruit students

Representatives from Stephen F. Austin State University will meet prospective students from 9:30 to 1 p.m., March 20 and April 18 in Jenkins Hall. TJC students who are interested in continuing their education at SFA can get information.

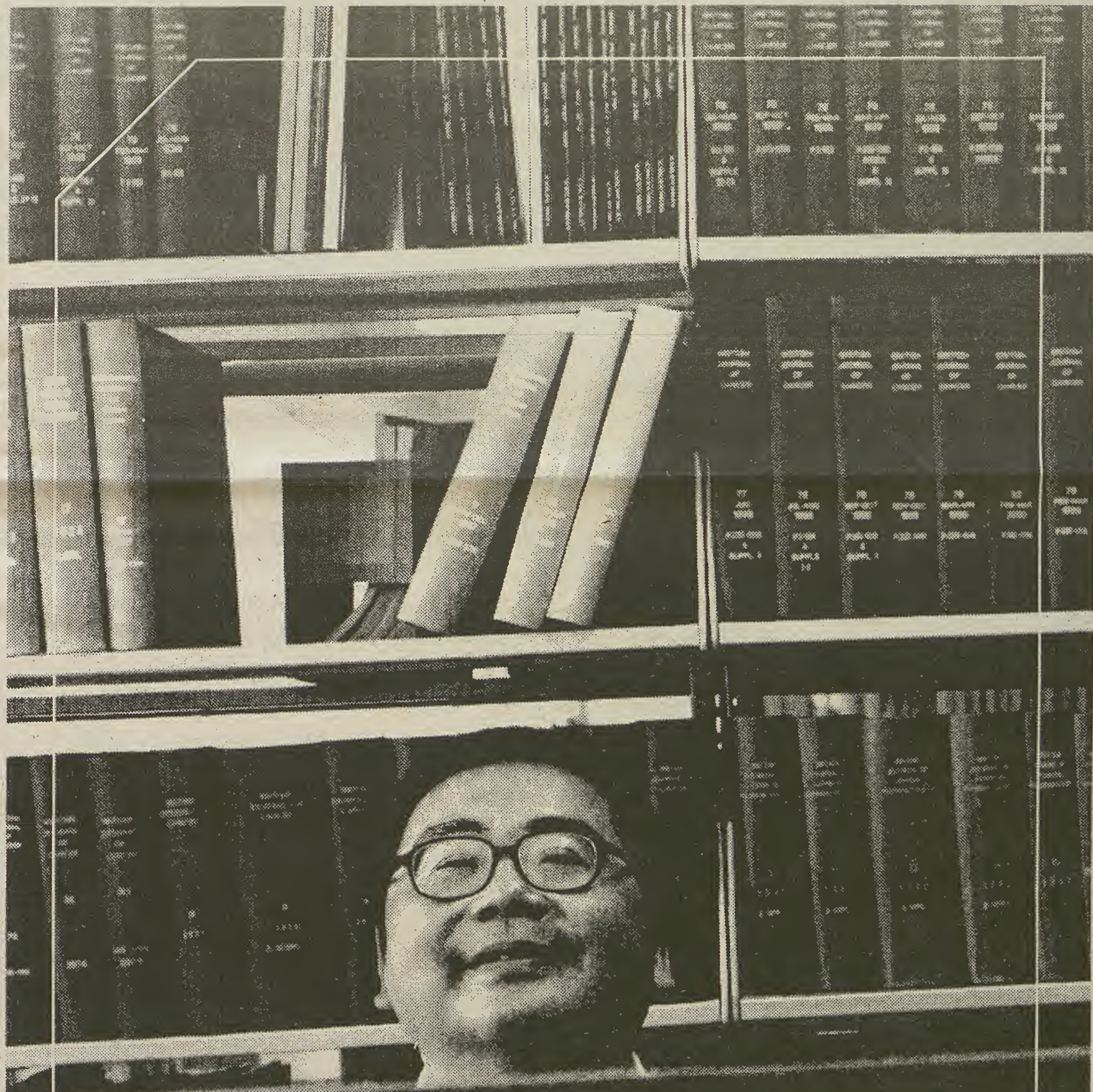
Edom Art Fair is set

Seventy three artists will display their creations at the 29th Edom Art Fair in Tyler. The Edom Art Fair is one of the most acclaimed and highly respected arts and crafts shows in the Southwest. The Fair opens at 10 a.m. March 16 and runs noon to 5 p.m. March 17 in the Ornelas HPE Center.

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Celebrating Black History

Lawrence prints preserve early paintings

By Erin Crawford
staff writer

Jacob Lawrence's silk prints can be seen at the Tyler Museum of Art 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays and 1 to 5 p.m. Sunday. Admission is free.

Lawrence started his career as an artist when he was 13. When he moved to Harlem in 1930, he learned from artists of the Harlem Renaissance whose creativity in the 1920s raised the visibility of African Americans, according to a TMA press release. He had finished four of his famous series, more than 200 paintings, by the time he was 24.

Lawrence was a quiet man, humble about his accomplishments and honors. He worked and exhibited continuously until he died at 82 in 2000.

His work reflects his belief in the American ideals of equality and unity, dignity of individuals and compassion for those who were suffering.

He believed African Americans' struggle symbolized the struggles of all humans, transcending time and ethnic boundaries.

His silk-screen prints titled "Legend of John Brown," are copies of Lawrence's 1940 gouache paintings, "The Life of John Brown."

Because the original paintings had deteriorated, the prints

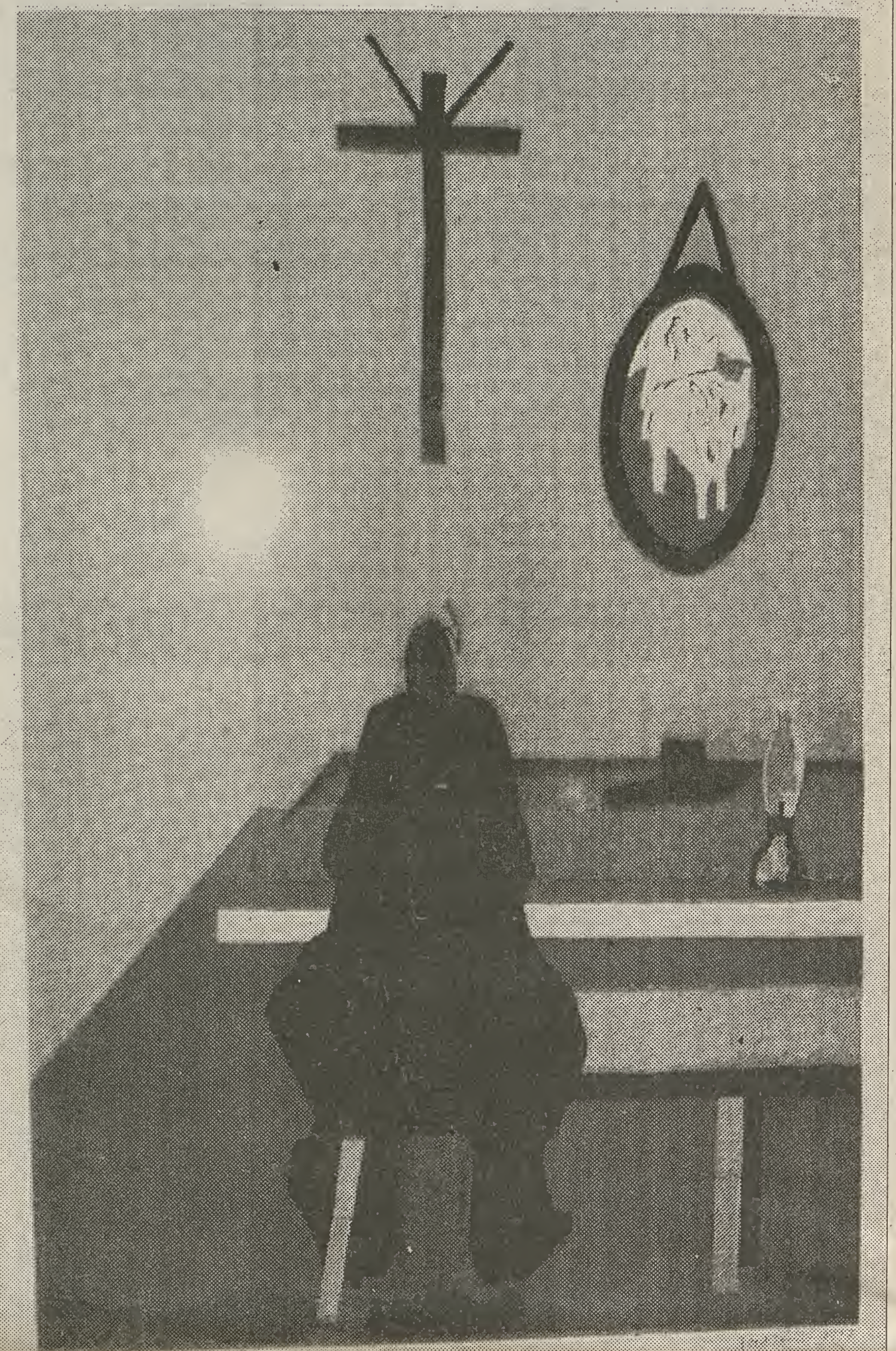
were made to preserve the original imagery and keep them accessible to the public.

The painted images were transferred to silk screen prints the same size as the originals, but Lawrence made no effort, to match the color and texture, according to the press release.

He was inspired to paint series about Brown, Frederick Douglass and Harriet Tubman by his experience as a youth in a Harlem YMCA history club,

listening to street corner orators and library research.

"Eight Studies for the book of Genesis," (1989-1990) was inspired by Lawrence's experiences attending Sunday School at the Abyssinian Baptist Church in Harlem and hearing ministers' passionate sermons on the Creation, 60 years earlier. Those memories were in the back of his mind as he was creating the series.



Photos by Erin Crawford

SAVED ON SILK —Works of AfricanAmerican artist Jacob Lawrence will be displayed at Tyler Museum of Art until April 28. Lawrence began painting when he was 13 and continued until his death at 82 in 2000. The original paintings, gouache works created in 1940, had deteriorated. Lawrence transferred the images to silk screen the same size as the originals so they could continue to be displayed. He was inspired by outstanding African-Americans including Frederick Douglass, Harriet Tubman and John Brown.

